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DoD Announces Increase in Foreign Language Pay

The Defense Department announced an increase in foreign language proficiency pay for qualified military personnel, effective June 1.

The maximum monthly pay for active-duty service members who are proficient in another language will be increased from \$300 to \$1,000. For National Guard and reserve members, a \$6,000-per-year bonus will be offered.



This increase comes under the fiscal 2005 National Defense Authorization Act and will be focused on languages that are strategically important to DoD, such as Middle Eastern languages and Chinese Mandarin.

According to Pentagon figures, about 247,000 service members have some language proficiency, but only about 20,000 have had their skill certified and receive proficiency pay. About 7,249 service members are listed as proficient in Arabic.